

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) Dental floss holder comprising a grip, in which can be inserted a floss supply spool, a fork with two prongs, between which can be stretched floss, as well as at least one holding element for locking the floss, wherein the grip has a substantially drop-shaped construction and is connected to the fork by means of an arm, the at least one holding element being fitted to the top of the arm and a guide for the floss being formed as a depression or groove within the grip, the guide extending to the prongs and being arranged on the upper surface of the holder.

2. (Previously Presented) Dental floss holder according to claim 1, characterized in that the grip is constructed as a shell construction.

3. (Previously Presented) Dental floss holder according to claim 1, characterized in that the arm length is about 0 to about 7 cm.

4. (Previously Presented) Dental floss holder according to claim 1, characterized in that the diameter of the drop-shaped grip is about 3 to about 7 cm.

5. (Currently Amended) Dental floss holder according to claim 1,

characterized in that the prongs of the fork have a cross-section of about 1 to about 3 mm[[y]].

6. (Previously Presented) Dental floss holder according to claim 1, characterized in that the prongs of the fork are bent downwards and outwards with respect to the longitudinal axis of the dental floss holder.

7. (Previously Presented) Dental floss holder according to claim 1, characterized in that the grip has two parts, the first part having a shell-shaped construction and the second part constructed as a detachable or fold-down lid.

8. (Previously Presented) Dental floss holder according to claim 1, characterized in that within the grip, a post extends substantially perpendicularly to the longitudinal axis of the dental floss holder.

9. (Currently Amended) A dental floss holder comprising a grip, in which can be inserted a floss supply spool, a fork with two prongs, between which can be stretched floss, as well as at least one holding element for locking the floss, wherein the grip has a substantially drop-shaped construction and is connected to the fork by means of an arm, the at least one holding element being fitted to the top of the arm and a guide for the floss being formed as a depression or groove within the grip. ~~Dental floss holder according to claim 1, characterized in that the grip is provided with a resiliently mounted locking mechanism, which has a post operable by pressure for selectively releasing the~~

locking action on the spool.

10. (Previously Presented) Dental floss holder according to claim 9, characterized in that the resilient mounting is implemented by a spring element and that the grip has securing elements for preventing a loss of the spring element.

11. (Previously Presented) Dental floss holder according to claim 1, characterized in that it has a cutting device for cutting off the used dental floss.

12. (Currently Amended) Dental floss holder according to claim [[1]] 9, characterized in that it is provided with a means for imparting high frequency oscillations to the floss.

13. (New) A dental floss holder comprising a grip, in which can be inserted a floss supply spool, a fork with two prongs, between which can be stretched floss, as well as at least one holding element for locking the floss, the grip is provided with a resiliently mounted locking mechanism which has a post mounted in the lower part of the grip, the post is operable by pressure for selectively releasing the locking action on the floss supply spool, the resilient mounting is implemented by a spring element and the grip has securing elements for preventing a loss of the spring element.

14. (New) The dental floss holder according to claim 13, in which the spring element is a spiral spring.